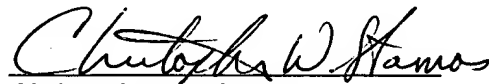


REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted to correct typographical errors in the claims, convert a number of multiple dependent claims to dependent claims, and to conform the claims to U.S. patent practice. No new matter is being introduced thereby.

Applicants respectfully request entry of this amendment prior to examination of the application on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,



Christopher W. Stamos  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 35,370

Date: October 10, 2000

Testa, Hurwitz & Thibault, LLP  
125 High Street  
High Street Tower  
Boston, MA 02110

Tel. (617) 248-7026  
Fax (617) 248-7100

STAMOS3902/1.1085387\_1

002214111200